in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

(b) The prices of selected essential commodities have already started showing a declining trend. With the anticipated higher production of agricultural produces during the current year, the prices are likely to come down further. The State Governments and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to remove all the restrictions on the inter-state movement of goods in the country.

Central assistance to States to Check price rise

668. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken some measures to arrest the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government have given any assistance to States in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). the prices of selected essential commodities showed an upward trend during the last few months due to decline in their production, adverse climatic conditions, non-availability of sufficient quantities for imports in the international markets. The Government has taken a number of measures to control and stabilise the prices. The import of onions and pulses have been placed under OGL at zero duty and import duty on edible oils has been reduced from 25% to 15%. In view of sharp rise in prices at Delhi, the Government arranged for the distribution of onions through the public distribution agencies at a subsidised rate of Rs. 10 per kg. at Delhi from July, 98. Several other State Governments also supplied a number of essential commodities at below market prices through PDS and cooperative outlets in their States.

पहले निर्यात किये गये प्याज का आयात

669. **श्री शिव सोरेन:** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने प्याज के निर्यात पर लगे प्रतिबन्धों को अप्रैल, 1998 को हटा दिया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि अन्य देशों से 31.50 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की दर से प्याज का आयात किया गया जबकि उसी प्याज को पहले 7.50 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की दर से उन्हें निर्यात किया गया था; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और उसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) और (ख) प्याज का निर्यात, जिसे 12.1.1998 से अस्थायी तौर पर लम्बित कर दिया गया था, को 4.3.98 से बहाल कर दिया गया था। मार्च, 1998 में प्याज का निर्यात फिर से शुरू करने का मुख्य कारण निर्यात की वचनबद्धताओं को पूरा करना और प्याज उत्पादकों को बाजार में उनके उत्पाद के उचित मूल्य दिलाना है। महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात तथा अन्य राज्यों के किसानों को अपनी रबी के प्याज के लिए खुले बाजार में लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा था।

(ग) और (घ) सरकार ने नेफेड के जरिए 1.61 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य का केवल 687 मी. टन प्याज का आयात किया है, जो औसतन 23.43 प्रति कि.ग्रा. बैठता है। प्याज आयात ईरान तथा किरगिस्तान से किया गया है। अक्तूबर, 98 में 118 लाख रु. पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क मूल्य को 537 लाख मीट्रिक टन प्याज का निर्यात किया गया था, जो औसतन 22.06 रु. प्रति किला ग्राम बैठता है।

Fair Price Shops

670. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fair price shops in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of fair price shops per one lakh population in urban areas, State-wise;

(c) the number of villages covered under one fair price shop in rural areas, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by Govt. to increase the number of fair price shops in rural areas; and

(e) the target set in this regard for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The total number of fair price shops (FPS) in the country, State-wise may be seen at Statement-I. (*See* below).

(b) As per information available in the Ministry the number of FPS per one lakh propulation in urban areas, State-wise is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) As per reports received from States/ U.Ts. periodically, the number of villages covered per FPS in rural areas, State-wise, is at Statement-III. (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The number of FPS in rural areas is now 3.66 lakh against the country's total rural population of 70.07 crore. Thus the norm of opening of one fair price shop per 2,000 persons has been achieved at macro level. No target has been set for opening of new fair price shops under the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

Total number of Fair Price Shops-State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32813	7038	39851
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	842	103	945
3.	Assam	27466	3753	31219
4.	Bihar	47293	10242	57535
5.	Goa	429	155	584
6.	Gujarat	10358	3766	14124
7.	Haryana	5057	2608	7665
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3418	240	3658
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2237	689	2926
10.	Karnataka	14540	5353	19893
11.	Kerala	12279	1982	14261
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20489	3652	24141
13.	Maharashtra	32400	10346	42746
14.	Manipur	1742	186	1928
15.	Meghalaya	3262	574	3836
16.	Mizoram	874	193	1067
17.	Nagaland	138	213	351
18.	Orissa	20980	3620	24600
19.	Punjab	8680	3072	11752
20.	Rajasthan	14041	4551	18592
21.	Sikkim	519	359	878
22.	Tamil Nadu	21684	4284	25968
23.	Tripura	1185	174	1359
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64393	12326	76719
25.	West Bengal	15628	4790	20418
26.	A & N Islands	286	118	404
27.	Chandigarh	46	201	247
28.	D & N Haveli	78	0	78
29.	Daman & Diu	7	6	13
30.	Delhi	2739	428	3167
31.	Lakshadweep	21	14	35
32.	Pondicherry	153	208	361
	TOTAL	366077	85244	451321

Statement-II

Number of Fair Price Shops per one lakh population in Urban Areas

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Population Ubran (in lakhs) (as on 1.7.98)	FPS Urban	No. of FPS per one lakh Population
1.	Andhra Pradesh	219.52	7038	32.06
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.15	103	47.91
3.	Assam	30.61	3753	122.61
4.	Bihar	141.50	10242	72.38
5.	Goa	7.35	155	21.09
6.	Gujarat	73.41	3766	51.30
7.	Haryana	51.70	2608	50.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.92	240	40.54
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	23.78	689	28.97
10.	Karnataka	169.67	5353	31.55
11.	Kerala	94.87	1982	20.89
12.	Madhya Pradesh	200.14	3652	18.25
13.	Maharashtra	370.75	10346	27.91
14.	Manipur	8.15	186	22.82
15.	Meghalaya	4.42	574	129.86
16.	Mizoram	5.53	193	34.90
17.	Nagaland	3.50	213	60.86
18.	Orissa	56.13	3620	64.49
19.	Punjab	72.26	3072	42.51
20.	Rajasthan	128.70	4551	35.36
21.	Sikkim	0.57	359	629.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	219.93	4284	19.48
23.	Tripura	6.09	174	28.57
24.	Uttar Pradesh	359.76	12326	34.26
25.	West Bengal	218.26	4790	21.95
26.	A & N Islands	1.00	118	118.00
27.	Chandigarh	7.51	201	26.76
28.	D & N Haveli	0.18	0	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	0.64	6	9.38
30.	Delhi	115.69	428	3.70
31.	Lakshadweep	0.42	14	33.33
32.	Pondicherry	7.55	208	27.55
	TOTAL	2607.66	85244	32.69

Statement-III

Number of Villages per Fair Price Shops in Rural Areas

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Population Rural (in lakhs) (as on 1.7.98)	Total No. of Villages *	FPS Rural	No. of Villages per FPS (3/4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	527.65	28000	32813	0.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.13	3649	842	4.33
3.	Assam	225.85	25590	27466	0.93
4.	Bihar	828.05	77697	47293	1.64
5.	Goa	7.78	369	429	0.86
6.	Gujarat	297.57	18509	10358	1.79
7.	Haryana	141.73	6988	5057	1.38
8.	Himachal Pradesh	58.31	19388	3418	5.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	71.57	6705	2237	3.00
10.	Karnataka	340.16	29193	14540	2.01
11.	Kerala	222.97	1384	12279	0.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	573.86	76220	20489	3.72
13.	Maharashtra	523.31	43025	32400	1.33
14.	Manipur	15.70	2212	1742	1.27
15.	Meghalaya	18.63	5629	3262	1.73
16.	Mizoram	3.48	785	874	0.90
17.	Nagaland	12.41	1225	138	8.88
18.	Orissa	296.91	51057	20980	2.43
19.	Punjab	158.75	12795	8680	1.47
20.	Rajasthan	391.35	39810	14041	2.84
21.	Sikkim	4.72	453	519	0.87
22.	Tamil Nadu	388.88	16780	21684	0.77
23.	Tripura	29.73	856	1185	0.72
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1280.65	123950	64393	1.92
25.	West Bengal	554.24	40889	15628	2.62
26.	A & N Islands	2.65	547	286	1.91
27.	Chandigarh	0.89	25	46	0.54
28.	D & N Haveli	1.62	71	78	0.91
29.	Daman & Diu	0.68	24	7	3.43
30.	Delhi	14.71	209	2739	0.08
31.	Lakshadweep	0.25	23	21	1.10
32.	Pondicherry	2.97	264	153	1.73
	TOTAL	7007.16	634321	366077	1.73

*As per "Basic Rural Statistic" 1996.

Marketing of blended edible oils

671. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review its policy with regard to marketing of blended edible oils;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). Under the current provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, marketing of blends of only two edible oils is allowed. This has been reviewed in this Ministry and a recommendation has been made for appropriate amendment of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, so as to allow marketing of blends of more than two edible oils.

No decision has been taken, so far

Piling up of Foodgrains Stock in FCI Godowns

672. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains worth several hundred crores are on the verge of rotting as the stocks have been piling up in FCI godowns for over three years;

(b) if so, the details of the country-wise position of foodgrain stocks lying unused in FCI godowns for three years, four years, five years and more than five years and the total thereof, with State-wise break-up;

(c) the reasons for such huge stock pile-up, as against set guidelines; and

(d) the details of immediate steps proposed for clearing old stock and measures proposed to ensure that old stocks are not allowed to pile up and for fixing the responsibility for administrative lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER